

POTATO STOCKS

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POTATO STOCKS 7 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR

Stocks of potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled a record high 109.5 million cwt. on March 1, 1977, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is 7.0 million cwt. (7 percent) above the 102.5 million cwt. on hand a year earlier and 5.4 million cwt. (5 percent) more than March 1, 1975.

Stocks in the eight Eastern States on March 1, 1977 totaled 15.0 million cwt., down 12 percent from the 17.2 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Maine stocks at 11.6 million cwt. compare with 13.7 million on hand a year earlier.

Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 15.0 million cwt., up 5 percent from the 14.3 million cwt. on hand March 1, 1976. Stocks were 6 percent lower in North Dakota but 8 percent above a year ago in Minnesota.

Stocks in the eight Western States totaled 79.5 million cwt., up 12 percent from the 71.0 million cwt. on hand March 1, 1976. Most of the increases in stocks were in Oregon (up 3.2 million) and Washington (up 4.7 million cwt.).

Disappearance of the 1976 fall crop to March 1, 1977 totaled 188.0 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), up 11 percent from the 169.4 million cwt. moved during the comparable period a year earlier.

The accumulated quantity of potatoes processed in seven major States to March 1, 1977 totaled 74.9 million cwt., an increase of 13.3 million or 22 percent over the quantity processed during the same period a year ago.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1966-76 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS				
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1
		1,000 CWT				
1966	228,442	153,550	128,050	103,630	79,632	
1967	231,656	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,405	
1968	221,906	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	239,460	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	253,525	175,145	150,030	122,830	96,780	
1971 <u>1/</u>	266,686	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480	
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305	<u>2/</u> 58,185
1973	253,866	157,802	133,585	106,600	81,150	55,865
1974	288,674	187,715	162,900	133,245	104,051	75,865
1975 <u>3/</u>	276,055	183,305	156,995	129,065	102,485	70,560
1976	302,818	198,440	169,235	139,715	109,535	

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971 LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR NEW YORK-LONG ISLAND, WISCONSIN AND WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

3/ REVISED AUGUST 1976 POT 6 (76).

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING, 1/ SEVEN STATES 1975 AND 1976 CROPS 2/

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT							
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO, OREG	1975-76:	14,360	19,270	24,360	30,195	36,635	57,000 ^{1/}
	1976-77:	18,030	24,135	29,960	36,205		
MAINE <u>3/</u>	1975-76:	1,735	2,350	2,950	3,640	4,415	5,965
	1976-77:	2,610	3,370	4,225	5,105		
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1975-76:	12,945	16,355	19,635	23,400	27,820	39,090
	1976-77:	16,440	19,935	23,620	27,930		
OTHER STATES <u>4/</u>	1975-76:	2,456	3,045	3,660	4,315	5,165	5,940
	1976-77:	2,515	3,485	4,600	5,685		
TOTAL	1975-76:	31,496	41,020	50,605	61,550	74,035	107,995
	1976-77:	39,595	50,925	62,405	74,925		

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED.

DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICHIGAN OR MINNESOTA. 2/ 1975-76 REVISED.

3/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 4/ MICH, MINN, N DAK.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL
POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS,
AND LOCAL DEALERS ON MARCH 1, 1976
AND MARCH 1, 1977

STATES	CROP OF 1975		CROP OF 1976	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1976	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1977
	1,000 CWT			
CALIF	6,365	1,950	6,475	1,500
COLO	8,613	3,000	9,075	3,100
CONN	552	1/	494	1/
IDAHO	76,865	41,500	85,175	42,500
IND	1,440	95	1,403	70
MAINE	26,840	13,700	27,440	11,600
MASS	718	1/	704	95
MICH	6,670	1,300	8,330	2,000
MINN	9,690	3,700	11,055	4,000
MONT	1,748	1,470	1,806	1,440
NEBR	1,225	480	1,274	460
N H	92	1/	104	1/
N Y - L I	6,058	700	6,931	500
- UPSTATE	6,120	1,300	6,101	980
N DAK	17,600	5,400	16,940	5,100
OHIO	2,024	200	2,499	290
OREG	24,408	7,300	28,913	10,500
PA	6,815	1,300	7,140	1,750
R I	987	1/	1,029	1/
S DAK	598	100	286	65
UTAH	1,508	300	1,248	300
VT	212	1/	205	1/
WASH	48,300	15,000	55,800	19,700
WIS	14,850	3,000	15,370	3,000
WYO	1,632	520	1,701	470
OTH STS		170		115
24 STATE TOTAL	271,930	102,485	297,498	109,535
NEV	4,125	2/	5,320	2/
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	276,055	102,485	302,818	109,535

1/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN "OTHER STATES".

2/ NOT INCLUDED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

The information contained in this report is based on a potato stocks quality survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. A total of 230 samples selected on a random basis were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Reports will continue to be issued through April for the 1976-77 storage season indicating accumulated average grade and weight loss for potato samples removed from storage for shipment.

Samples recovered before March 1, 1977 for all varieties continue to average a smaller proportion of U. S. No. 1 potatoes after storage than a year ago. The percent of Red, White and Russet varieties that graded U. S. No. 1 (including B's) was 83, 65, and 63 percent respectively, and compares with 85, 76, and 67 percent by March 1 a year earlier. The decline in U. S. No. 1 grade for Reds and Russets since time of harvest is indicated at 11 and 22 percent respectively and 26 percent for White varieties. This compares with declines of 7 percent for Reds, 11 percent for Whites and 19 percent for Russets during the same period a year earlier.

The percent graded as culls was above a year ago for all varieties. The percent culls for samples removed from storage by March 1, 1977 and March 1, 1976 respectively are as follows: Reds 9 and 7; Whites 21 and 15; and Russets 23 and 19. Total weight loss while in storage was higher than a year ago for Whites, but less for Reds and Russets. Weight loss ranges from 3 to 5 percent.

Final data for the 1975-76 storage season are also provided and show the average grade at harvest and after storage for all samples recovered from storage.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1976-77
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES SHIPPED: 1/

VARIETAL TYPE	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S:	WEIGHT LOSS
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AFTER	
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	STORAGE	
							2/	
	PERCENT							
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MARCH 1, 1977							
RED	93	83	4	8	3	9	9	3
WHITE	88	65	7	14	5	21	9	5
RUSSET	81	63	11	14	8	23	5	3
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MARCH 1, 1976							
RED	91	85	5	8	4	7	10	4
WHITE	85	76	7	9	8	15	9	3
RUSSET	83	67	12	14	5	19	12	4
	ALL SAMPLES 1975-76 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL							
RED	88	81	6	9	6	10	10	4
WHITE	84	77	8	9	8	14	9	4
RUSSET	80	73	13	12	7	15	13	3

1/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

2/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U. S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DID NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA; RED AND WHITE VARIETIES 1 1/2 - 2 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR WEIGHT LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.